

CLAIMS:

1. Circuit for storing audiovisual data, said circuit being connectable to a main memory, said circuit comprising:

an input for receiving data; and

an output for distributing data stored in the main memory;

5 wherein the circuit comprises:

a data compression processor coupled to the input to compress the received data in layers by means of bit-rate scalable compression; and

an auxiliary memory, coupled to the data compression compressor for storing one or more enhancement layer; and

10 wherein the circuit is further adapted to store one or more basic layers in the main memory.

2. Circuit according to claim 1, wherein the auxiliary memory comprises a FIFO buffer.

3. Circuit according to claim 1, comprising a reversible queue mechanism.

4. Circuit according to claim 1, wherein the circuit is arranged to vary the amount of compression, preferably in a wide range of bit-rates and/or compressions.

5. Apparatus for storing audiovisual data, said apparatus comprising:

the circuit according to claim 1;

an input terminal for receiving the data, coupled to the input of the circuit;

25 an output terminal for supplying a delayed version of the data, coupled to the output of the circuit; and

a main memory coupled to the output of the circuit and to the output terminal of the apparatus.

6. Method for storing audiovisual data in a memory, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving data,

compressing the data by means of bit-rate scalable compression to at least one

5 basic layer and at least one enhancement layer; and

storing the enhancement layer in an auxiliary memory, and the basic layer in a main memory.